

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 have been previously canceled and claims 9, 10, 15 and 17 are currently cancelled. Claims 8 and 14 have been amended. No new claims have been added by way of this response. Thus, claims 5-8, 11-14 and 16 are currently pending and presented for examination.

In response to the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claims include two patentably distinct groups and requires Applicant to elect for examination one of the following groups:

Group I	Claims 5-7 and 11-13, and
Group II	Claims 8-10 and 14-17.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's determination of patentable distinctness between each of the Groups and in response elects, without traverse, to prosecute for examination purposes the patentably distinct invention specified in **Group 1 (claims 5-8, 11-14 and 16)**.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 8 and 14 have been amended to be dependent claims. Claim 8 now depends from independent claim 5 and claim 14 now depends from independent claim 11. No new matter has been added.

Previously presented claims 9 and 10, which were dependent from claim 8, are currently canceled. Also, previously presented claims 15 and 17, which were dependent from claim 14, are currently canceled.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the elected Group I now includes claims 5-8, 11-14 and 16, which are presented for examination.

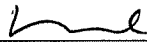
However, Applicant urges the Examiner to **carefully reconsider** the patentable distinctness determinations made as set forth in MPEP 806.04(h) and 808.01(a) in regards to the impact on prior art references in future divisional applications.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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